

REPORT BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE  
to the XVIth International Congress of Zoology,  
Washington, 1963

The following is, in substance, the Report submitted by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, to the XVIth International Congress of Zoology, through the Section on Nomenclature of that Congress. This Report consists of two parts (1) the Report of the work of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature between 1958 and 1963 and (2) the minutes of the meetings of the Commission prior to and during the Congress at Washington.

This Report was duly approved by the Section on Nomenclature at its meeting on 23 August 1963.

1 REPORT ON THE WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE IN THE FIVE  
YEAR PERIOD 1958-1963.

By W. E. China (Acting Secretary, *International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*)

(1) The period in question begins in London with the Closing Address of Sir Gavin de Beer, President of the XVth International Congress of Zoology, on 23 July 1958. The President pointed out that an Editorial Committee had been set up to prepare for publication the Text of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature which had been prepared and agreed upon by the Colloquium on Zoological Nomenclature. The President also informed the Plenary Session that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature had recommended that its work in future should be conducted on the basis of a centralised office with a permanent salaried secretary and staff without prejudice to its location or the nationality of its staff; that immediate action be taken to reduce the bulk and cost of the publications and that steps be taken for the establishment of an International Association for Zoological Nomenclature. The Commission also recommended that its own By-laws be re-examined with a view to amending them in the light of existing conditions and a By-laws Committee was set up to carry out this task.

All these recommendations were approved by Congress during the Final Plenary Session.

(2) As you all know, the work of the Editorial Committee leading up to the publication of the Code in November 1961, is ably recorded by Commissioner Stoll, Chairman of the Committee, in his Introduction to the Code. The Commission must always be grateful for the painstaking efforts of the Editorial Committee and indeed to all those who took an active part in work leading to the publication of the Code. Over 4,000 copies have now been sold and

translations have been made in Japan, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Spain and Mexico.

(3) The Draft Constitution prepared by the By-laws Committee, Dr. K. H. L. Key, Prof. H. Boschma and Prof. Ernst Mayr (Chairman) was submitted to the Commission on 26 August 1959, and was duly published in the *Bulletin* Vol. 19, pp. 358–364 followed by an Addendum containing suggested additions and amendments by the President of the Commission, Prof. J. Chester Bradley, supported by Dr. A. do Amaral, Vice-President and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. N. D. Riley.

A working draft of the proposed By-laws based on a combination of the original draft and the President's suggested amendments, (Doc. A) has been prepared and circulated to those present to assist in the discussion which will follow later.

(4) Mr. R. V. Melville, who had been appointed Assistant Secretary of the Commission and Assistant Manager of the Trust on the retirement of Mr. Hemming, played a leading part in the affairs of the Commission after the Congress. As Secretary of the Editorial Committee, he was largely responsible for advising the Committee on the numerous decisions of the Colloquium and as Assistant Secretary of the Commission under Mr. Secretary N. D. Riley he was responsible for the routine management of the Secretariat involving the preparation of Applications for publication in the *Bulletin*, the organization of voting by the Commissioners and the promulgation of their Opinions. In December 1959, he returned to his palaeontological work on the Geological survey of the U.K. His place was taken by the present Acting Secretary, then Keeper of Entomology at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) in succession to Mr. Riley. Melville continued to co-operate in editing the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* and especially in seeing the new Code through the press. Eventually he left the Geological Survey in 1960 and went to Paris as Scientific Attaché at the British Embassy.

(5) In 1959, the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History) allocated accommodation in the Museum for the Commission's Office. Not only was this a financial gain more than equivalent to the £250 a year rent previously paid by the Trust for modest accommodation in London, but the unique library facilities and wide range of specialist advice available, were of the utmost value to the Secretariat. Great saving in time and correspondence resulted and altogether the generosity of the Museum Trustees was equivalent to an estimated annual subvention of \$2,000.

(6) Steps were taken under Messrs. Riley and Melville to implement the recommendation by the XVth Congress that the bulk and sale price of the *Bulletin* should be reduced. From 1959 onwards the separate publication of the *Opinions and Declarations* series ceased and it was incorporated into the *Bulletin*, the annual price of which has been reduced from £88 in 1958 for Applications, Comments, Opinions, Declarations, Directions and Matter for discussion at the XVth Congress to £18 in 1962 for similar coverage. Naturally if the annual cost is to be fixed then the number of Applications, Comments, Opinions etc. published each year must be kept within bounds. In 1962, starting with Vol. 19, part 5, the size of each part of the *Bulletin* was increased from 64

pages to 80 pages without increasing the price. It is hoped by more economies still further to increase the number of cases published each year for the same cost to the subscriber.

(7) In view of the great changes that have been made in the style of the Commission's publications it has been felt that the formation of an International Association for Zoological Nomenclature recommended at the XVth Congress in 1958 was now un-necessary. Lord Hurcomb, Chairman of the International Trust, had warned the Commission in July 1958, (*Bull. Zool. Nomencl.* **15** (40), Document B. p. xxxiii) of the danger of disrupting the present organisation and Sir Gavin de Beer, President of the XVth Congress, had pointed out to the Commission, financial difficulties involved in such a scheme.

The Executive Committee of the Commission therefore decided to go ahead with the existing system, where the Commission is financed by the International Trust, which has proved so successful. I think that the Commission will agree that the continuation of the present arrangement should be recommended to Congress for approval.

(8) *Personnel:*

(1) Losses through death. It is with great regret that we have to record that since its Session in London in July 1958, the Commission has suffered the loss through death of:

- (a) their Honorary Life President, Dr. Karl Jordan, who died at the great age of 97 on 12 January 1959. An obituary was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (**17** : 259-266);
- (b) Commissioner Prof. F. S. Bodenheimer (Israel) who died most unexpectedly in London on 4 October 1959;
- (c) Commissioner Prof. Béla Hankó (Hungary) who also died suddenly in Toronto, on 16 November 1959;
- (d) Commissioner Dr. Angel Cabrera (Argentina) who died at La Plata on 7 July 1960, aged 81;

(2) Losses through resignation:

During the period under review the Commission suffered the loss of two Commissioners by resignation: On 9 June 1961, Commissioner Prof. J. R. Dymond (Canada) tendered his resignation which was accepted. Prof. Dymond had for a long time intimated his intention of doing so but had been persuaded to stay on beyond his time.

On 23 October 1962, Commissioner Dr. Max Poll (Belgium) tendered his resignation which was accepted with regret by the Executive Committee. Prof. J. Chester Bradley has also submitted his resignation both from the Presidency and as Commissioner to take effect from the end of this Congress; It is convenient to report here the case of Commissioner Dr. Ferdinand Prantl (Czechoslovakia). For some time the Secretariat received no communication from him and in 1962 it learnt that Dr. Prantl had been imprisoned. He was placed on extended leave of absence while steps were taken to determine whether or not his imprisonment was due to political reasons since, according to the Constitution, such imprisonment did not warrant expulsion from the Commission. All attempts to find out the reason for Prantl's imprisonment having failed it would be realistic if the

Commission were to decide to replace him, since a Commissioner to be effective must be a *persona grata* with his own government.

- (3) Elections to the Commission during the period 1958–1963. Elections of Commissioners during the period under review were:
- (a) Dr. Dmitri Obruchev, (Professor of Palaeontology, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.) 5 November 1958;
  - (b) Dr. Tohru Uchida, (Professor of Zoology, Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan) 24 March 1959;
  - (c) Dr. G. O. Evans (British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London, Acarologist) 31 May 1960 (to replace Commissioner Prof. P. C. Sylvester-Bradley who resigned);
  - (b) Prof. Dr. Raphael Alvarado, (Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Invertebrate Zoologist) to represent Spain (31 May 1960);
  - (e) Dr. E. G. Munroe, (Research Officer, Entomology Research Institute, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa) nominated by the National Research Council and the Royal Society of Canada to replace Commissioner Prof. Dymond (9 June 1961);
  - (f) Dr. N. S. Borchsenius, (Assistant Director, Institute of Zoology, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R. Leningrad, Coccidologist) nominated by the Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R. 28 September 1961;
  - (g) Prof. Dr. E. Binder (Natural History Museum, Geneva, Switzerland, malacologist) nominated by the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences (21 May 1962);
  - (h) Dr. W. E. China, C.B.E., Assistant Secretary to the Commission and formerly Keeper, Dept. of Entomology, British Museum (Nat. Hist.) London, (Hemipterist) elected Commissioner-at-large by the Executive Committee.

The position now is that there are 26 Commissioners representing 18 different countries with 2 Commissioners-at-large, Prof. Ernst Mayr and myself.

(4) Change of Secretaryship:

On 30 June 1962, Mr. N. D. Riley C.B.E., Honorary Secretary of the Commission, expressed a wish to resign and Dr. W. E. China, Assistant Secretary, agreed to take his place as Acting Secretary until a new Honorary Secretary could be elected by the Commission at the present Congress.

(5) Retirement of Commissioners:

According to the Constitution, the senior third of all Commissioners are due to retire at the end of this Congress. These may offer themselves for re-election if they wish, and if the Commission agrees.

9. Publications:

Since the last Congress, 110 Opinions, 2 Directions, 238 new applications from zoologists and 127 comments have been dealt with and published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. In addition, 50 Opinions and 2 Declarations were published in the Opinions and Declarations series before that series was brought to a close.

Although this is considerably less than in the preceding five years under Mr. Secretary Hemming's direction the cost to the subscriber has been correspondingly less. It has become obvious that there is a limit to the number of applications which can be published if the annual cost is not to be oppressive.

The Declarations which according to the Constitution must be reported to Congress are:

- (a) No. 40, which was issued on 15 October 1958, declared that "Generic names having the termination '-ides,' '-ites,' or '-oides' are to be treated as being masculine in gender."

Although technically not issued until after the XVth Congress, Declaration 40 was reported to the Congress by Assistant Secretary, R. V. Melville, and was ultimately incorporated in the New Code in Article 30(a) (4) (ii) on page 33. It does not need the approval of the XVIth Congress.

- (b) No. 41 which was issued on 15 October 1958, declared "Where in a work written in the Latin language a Latin word is used in such a way as to be capable of bearing the interpretation that it is there employed as a generic, specific or subspecific name duly formed in accordance with the provisions of the Règles, the word in question is to be so interpreted, save where such an interpretation is clearly excluded by the content."

This Declaration although actually issued after the XVth Congress was reported to that Congress by Mr. R. V. Melville, Assistant Secretary. The Colloquium agreed that Declaration 41 should be incorporated into Article 6, Sect. 1 of Prof. J. Chester Bradley's draft English text of the revised Code. Article 6, Section 1 is equivalent to Chapter 4 in the New Code and Declaration 41 should have been incorporated in Article 11(b). This does not appear to have been done and the Commission must recommend to Congress that Declaration 41 should be approved or disapproved.

# 11 MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE, WASHINGTON, 1963.

The Commission met in public session in the Main Ball Room of the Shoreham Hotel on Monday the 19, Tuesday the 20 and Wednesday the 21 August and in private session on Thursday 22 August.

The following nineteen (19) members of the Commission were in attendance: Alvarado (Spain), Vice President do Amaral (Brazil), Binder (Switzerland), President Bradley (U.S.A.), Brinck (Sweden) Acting Secretary China (at Large), Evans (U.K.), Holthuis (Netherlands), Key (Australia), Kühnelt (Austria), Lemche (Denmark), Mayr (at Large), Miller (U.S.A.), Munroe (Canada), Riley (U.K.), Stoll (U.S.A.), Tortonese (Italy), Uchida (Japan), Vokes (U.S.A.).

1. **The President** (in the Chair) in welcoming guests, pointed out that action was confined to the Commission, and while guests could speak they could not vote, although straw votes might be taken to give the feeling of the meeting.

2. **Alternate Commissioners** were elected to represent absent Commissioners as follows: